United Nations A/C.3/56/L.1

General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
Third Committee

Organization of the work of the Third Committee

Note by the Secretariat

Allocation of items

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Third Committee are listed in the letter from the President of the Assembly to the Chairperson of the Third Committee (A/C.3/56/1). Background information on those items may be found in the annotations to the agenda (A/56/100).

Programme of work

2. The draft programme of work (see annex) has been prepared bearing in mind paragraph (b) of rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the organizational arrangements agreed upon by the Assembly at the outset of its current session (A/56/250), relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly on the rationalization of its work and that of the Third Committee, the schedule of related intergovernmental meetings and the availability of documentation, as well as past experience in the utilization of conference services.

Interactive dialogues and debates

3. In accordance with the evolving practice of the Committee, immediately following the introduction of reports by executive heads and senior members of the Secretariat at the beginning of each debate, time will be set aside for an interactive dialogue between these officials and members of the Committee as part of the formal proceedings. Delegations are invited to participate actively in these dialogues with questions and comments in an unscripted format. They are requested to withhold their prepared statements for the Committee's official debates immediately following the dialogues.

4. Under agenda items 115 (Promotion and protection of the rights of children), 117 (Elimination of racism and racial discrimination), 118 (Right of peoples to self-determination) and 119 (Human rights questions), time will likewise be set aside for dialogues with the special rapporteurs and representatives who will be reporting on their activities.

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5. Under agenda item 119, it should be noted that delegations may make one statement each under sub-items (a) and (d), which are to be discussed separately. Delegations may also make two statements under sub-items 119 (b), (c) and (e), but they should not make two statements on any one of those sub-items.

List of documents

6. Attention is drawn to the note on the status of preparation of documentation submitted under the various agenda items allocated to the Third Committee (A/C.3/56/L.1/Add.1). Because of the critical need for the timely issuance of documentation, that note will be revised to update the information contained therein.

Length of statements

7. It has been the established practice of the Committee to limit statements on all agenda items. The proposed time limit for statements in the general discussion of the various agenda items is seven minutes for delegations and 15 minutes for representatives of groups of delegations. Secretariat officials will also be limited to seven-minute statements, except when they deliver oral reports. In accordance with the decision of the General Assembly, delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for the same day and both meetings are devoted to consideration of the same item. The first statement in exercise of the right of reply may be five minutes, and the second statement should be no longer than three minutes.

Conference facilities and meetings arrangements

8. Unless otherwise specified, meetings will be held at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The General Assembly has reminded delegations that punctuality is of the utmost importance for ensuring an effective and orderly organization of work and achieving economies for the United Nations. As decided by the Assembly, the requirement that at least one quarter of the members of the Committee must be present to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed has been waived.

Control and limitation of documentation

9. The Committee's attention is drawn to General Assembly resolution 50/206 C of 23 December 1995 on the control and limitation of documentation. The Secretariat wishes to emphasize, in particular, paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of that resolution, in which the Assembly requested, inter alia, restraint on the part of members of all intergovernmental bodies in making proposals containing requests for new reports.

Report of the Economic and Social Council

10. The Committee is reminded that, in accordance with a decision of the General Assembly, chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/56/3) are to be considered in conjunction with documentation under the relevant substantive agenda items, as well as under item 12.

Conclusion of the work of the Committee

11. Bearing in mind the allocation of the number of meetings available to the Third Committee and previous decisions of the General Assembly, the Assembly has set a target date of Wednesday, 28 November, for the conclusion of its work.

Annex

Proposed programme of work of the Third Committee

Programme	*Documentation*
Thursday, 13 September	
(Plenary of the General Assembly) Consecutive meetings of the Main Committees to elect the Chairpersons	
Wednesday, 3 October	
3 p.m.	
Election of the Bureau and organization of work	
Week of 8-12 October	
Monday, 8 October	
3 p.m.	
Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:	
Item 27. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly[a]	Report of the Secretary-General (A/56/140)
Item 108. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family[a]	Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/56/3)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the appropriate ways and means to observe the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 (A/56/57-E/2001/5; transmitting E/CN.5/2001/4)
	Report of the Secretary-General on cooperatives in social development (A/56/73-E/2001/68)
	Report of the Secretary-General on a proposal for a United Nations literacy decade: education for all and addendum (A/56/114-E/2001/93 and Add.1)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (A/56/169)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/56/180)

Programme	*Documentation*
	Report of the Secretary-General on ways Governments and the United Nations system could support volunteering (A/56/288)
	E/2001/ Report of the Secretary-General on the World Social Situation
Item 109. Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing[a]	Report of the Secretary-General: Towards the Second World Assembly on Ageing: Preparations for Madrid (A/56/152)
6 p.m.	
Closure of list of speakers on items 27, 108 and 109	
Tuesday, 9 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 27, 108 and 109. General discussion (continued)	
Wednesday, 10 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 27, 108 and 109. General discussion (continued)	
Thursday, 11 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 27, 108 and 109. General discussion (concluded)	
6 p.m.	
Deadline for submission of draft proposals on items 27, 108 and 109	
Friday, 12 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:	
Item 110. Crime prevention and criminal justice[b]	Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/56/3)

Programme	*Documentation*
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of programme management and administrative practices in the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (A/56/83)
	Report of the Secretary-General on crime prevention and criminal justice programmes (A/56/155)
	Report of the Secretary-General on preventing and combating corrupt practices and illegal transfer of funds and repatriation of such funds to their countries of origin
	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the open-ended expert group: draft terms of reference for the negotiation of an international legal instrument against corruption
	Report of the Secretary-General: comprehensive report on the High-level Political Signing Conference
Item 111. International drug control[b]	Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/56/3)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of programme management and administrative practices in the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (A/56/83)
	Comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly devoted to countering the world drug problem together (A/56/157)
1 p.m.	
Closure of list of speakers on items 110 and 111	
Week of 15-19 October	
Monday, 15 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 110 and 111. General discussion (continued)	

Programme	*Documentation*
Tuesday, 16 October	
3 p.m.	
Items 110 and 111. General discussion (continued)	
Wednesday, 17 October	
10 a.m.	
Items 110 and 111. General discussion (concluded)	
1 p.m.	
Deadline for submission of draft proposals on items 110 and 111	
3 p.m.	
Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:	
Item 112. Advancement of women[c]	Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/56/3) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its twenty-fourth session (A/56/38, Pt. I) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its twenty-fifth session (A/56/38, Pt. II) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/56/268) Report of the Secretary-General on the critical situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/56/279) Report of the Secretary-General on traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls (A/56/316) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/56/328) Report of the Secretary-General on the problem of violence against women migrant workers (A/56/329) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women

Programme	*Documentation*
	Report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system
Item 113. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2001: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"[c]	**Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/56/3)**
	Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and addendum (A/56/319 and Add.1)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the full range of tasks of the Division for the Advancement of Women
6 p.m.	
Closure of list of speakers on items 112 and 113	
Thursday, 18 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 112 and 113. General discussion (continued)	
Friday, 19 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 112 and 113. General discussion (continued)	
Week of 22-26 October	
Monday, 22 October	
10 a.m.	
Items 112 and 113. General discussion (concluded)	
1 p.m.	
Deadline for submission of draft proposals on items 112 and 113	
3 p.m.	
Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:	

Programme	*Documentation*
Item 115. Promotion and protection of the rights of children	Report of the Secretary-General on the Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/56/203) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the impact of armed conflict on children (A/56/342-S/2001/852)
6 p.m.	
Closure of list of speakers on item 115	
Tuesday, 23 October	
3 p.m.	
Item 115. General discussion (continued)	
Wednesday, 24 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Item 115. General discussion (continued)	
Thursday, 25 October	
No meetings	
Friday, 26 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Item 115. General discussion (continued)	
Week of 29 October-2 November	
Monday, 29 October	
10 a.m.	
Item 115. General discussion (concluded)	
1 p.m.	
Deadline for submission of draft proposals on item 115	
3 p.m.	
Introductory statements and general discussion of:	
Item 116. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (A/56/206)

Programme	*Documentation*
6 p.m.	
Closure of list of speakers on item 116	
Tuesday, 30 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Item 116. General discussion (concluded)	
6 p.m.	
Deadline for submission of draft proposals on item 116	
Wednesday, 31 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Introductory statements, dialogue with Special Rapporteurs and general discussion of:	
Item 117. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination[d]	Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/56/3) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/56/18) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (A/56/228) Report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and coordination of activities
Item 118. Right of peoples to self-determination[d]	Report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self-determination (A/56/295) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (A/56/224)
1 p.m.	
Closure of list of speakers on items 117 and 118	

Programme	*Documentation*
Thursday, 1 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 117 and 118. General discussion (continued)	
Friday, 2 November	
No meetings	
Week of 5-9 November	
Monday, 5 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 117 and 118. General discussion (concluded)	
6 p.m.	
Deadline for submission of draft proposals on items 117 and 118	
Tuesday, 6 November	
10 a.m.	
Item 119 (a). Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments[e, f]	Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/56/3) Report of the Human Rights Committee (A/56/40) Report of the Committee against Torture (A/56/44) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/56/156) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (A/56/177*) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenants on Human Rights (A/56/178) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (A/56/179)

Programme	*Documentation*
	Report of the Secretary-General on the operations of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture (A/56/181)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (A/56/205)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
1 p.m.	
Closure of list of speakers on item 119 (a)	
Wednesday, 7 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Item 119 (a). **Introductory statement and dialogue with High Commissioner for Human Rights**	
Conclusion of general discussion	
6 p.m.	
Deadline for submission of draft proposals on item 119 (a)	
Thursday, 8 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Introductory statements, dialogue with special rapporteurs and representatives and general discussion of:	
Item 119 (b). **Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms**[e, f]	**Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of his representative on the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons (A/56/168)**
	Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and terrorism (A/56/190)
	Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and cultural diversity (A/56/204)
	Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/56/207)

Programme	*Documentation*
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Human Rights in Cambodia (A/56/209)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the role and achievements of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights (A/56/230)
	Report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/56/254)
	Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (A/56/255)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/56/256)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/56/258)
	Note by the Secretary-General on human rights of persons with disabilities (A/56/263)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the United Nations Decade on Human Rights Education, 1995-2004 (A/56/271)
	Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity (A/56/292)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of migrants (A/56/310)
	Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses (A/56/334)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders (A/56/341)

Programme	*Documentation*
	Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization (A/56/344)
Item 119 (c). Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives[e, f]	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a preliminary report by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the Right to Food (A/56/210)
	Note by the Secretary-General on the human rights situation of the Lebanese detainees in Israel (A/56/217)
	Note by the Secretary-General on the mission report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and a Working Group member (A/56/220)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance (A/56/253)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/56/278)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Sierra Leone (A/56/281)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/56/312)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/56/327)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (A/56/336)

Programme	*Documentation*
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq (A/56/340)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar
	Interim report of the Special Representative on the human rights situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti
Item 119 (d). Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[e, f]	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/56/36) (also item 119 (e))
Item 119 (e). Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights[e, f]	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/56/36) (also item 119 (d))
	Interim report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in East Timor
1 p.m.	
Closure of list of speakers on items 119 (b) to (e)	
Friday, 9 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 119 (b) to (e). General discussion (continued)	
Week of 12-16 November	
Monday, 12 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 119 (b) to (e). General discussion (continued)	
Tuesday, 13 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 119 (b) to (e). General discussion (continued)	
Wednesday, 14 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 119 (b) to (e). General discussion (continued)	

Programme	*Documentation*
Thursday, 15 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 119 (b) to (e). General discussion (continued)	
Friday, 16 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 119 (b) to (e). General discussion (concluded)	
6 p.m.	
Deadline for submission of draft proposals on items 119 (b), (c), (d) and (e)	
Week of 19-23 November	
Monday, 19 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Introductory statements, dialogue with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and general discussion of:	
Item 114. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions	Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/56/3)
	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and addendum (A/56/12 and Add.1)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees operations in Albania (A/56/128)
	Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa
	Report of the Secretary-General on protection and assistance to unaccompanied and separated refugee children
1 p.m.	
Closure of list of speakers on item 114	

Programme	*Documentation*
Tuesday, 20 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Item 114. General discussion (continued)	
Wednesday, 21 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Item 114. General discussion (concluded)	
6 p.m.	
Deadline for submission of draft proposals on item 114	
Thursday, 22 November	
Thanksgiving Holiday (No meetings)	
Friday, 23 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Action on draft proposals	
Week of 26-30 November	
Monday, 26 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Action on all outstanding draft proposals	
Tuesday, 27 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Action on all outstanding draft proposals	
Wednesday, 28 November	
10 a.m.	
Item 12. Report of the Economic and Social Council	Report of the Economic and Social Council (A/56/3)
3 p.m.	
Conclusion of the work of the Third Committee	

[a] It is proposed to discuss items 27, 108 and 109 jointly; delegations may make two separate statements, i.e., one on item 27 and a separate statement on items 108 and 109, if they so wish.

[b] It is proposed to discuss items 110 and 111 jointly; delegations may make two separate statements, i.e., one on each item, if they so wish.

[c] It is proposed to discuss items 112 and 113 jointly; delegations may make two separate statements, i.e., one on each item, if they so wish.

[d] See General Assembly decision 52/428; items 117 and 118 to be discussed jointly; delegations may make two separate statements, i.e., one on each item, if they so wish.

[e] See General Assembly decision 53/434; sub-items (a) and (d) to be discussed separately; sub-items (b), (c) and (e) to be discussed jointly.

[f] See General Assembly decision 53/434; delegations may make one statement each under sub-items (a) and (d) and two statements under sub-items (b), (c) and (e), but should not make two statements on any one of those sub-items.